

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated July 29, 2003, the Examiner states that Claims 12-22 are pending, Claims 21 and 22 are rejected, and Claims 12-20 are withdrawn from consideration. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Jahn (US 4,722,273) in view of EP 0574124.

US 4,722,273 discloses a fluid applying unit 11 for applying both a washing fluid (water) and a solvent (lacquer), and also a separate dampening unit 7. The novelty of the present invention lies in that with the use of the doctor blade chamber device for applying both lacquer and water, a dampening unit is no longer necessary. In a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney, the Examiner stated his opinion that the claims in their present form claim the device disclosed in US 4,722,273 using the doctor blade chamber device of EP 0574124, since the claims do not specifically recite that the doctor blade chamber device operates as both a lacquering unit and a dampening unit.

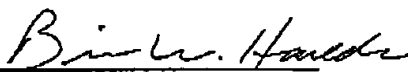
In the telephone interview the Examiner indicated that the claims as presently amended would overcome the rejection. The Applicant does not believe this amendment requires any further search or consideration by the Examiner. However, if the Examiner requires a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to be filed, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone so that any extensions of time to respond may be avoided.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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